Commence Next Thursday.

TEAMS HAVE ALL STRENGTHENED

The Bluebirds Have Made No Claims, But They Are in the Race, and Expect to Win-Work of Other

The season of 1896 in the Virginia State League begins next Thursday, when the Richmond team will meet the Roanoke ats at West-End Park, and for five months thereafter the six clubs comni hercely for supremacy and the pen-

The season promises to be one of the most interesting and exciting in the history of base-ball in this State. Last season the Virginia league was conceded to be the fastest State combination ever in existence, and it rivalled many of the larger minor leagues.

here can be no doubt that it is stronger to-day than it was at this time hast year, as is evidenced by the games played by the local clubs with National lengue teams. Last season the Virginia teams were soft snaps for the big leaguers; this season it is different. The boys from the National League have bud their hands full ever since they have been in this State, and in no city in Virginia have they had a walk-over. ALL THE CLUBS STRONG.

Lefty Marr is credited with having often together a well-balanced team, thich will, under his management, place ortsmeuth in the front rank in the race



JESS: TANNEHILL

for the pennant. Marr is a player of vart experience, and no doubt he will do a great deal towards making the sea-son of 1866 a successful one both for Portsmouth and the Virginia State Farlan, who will lead on to battle

McFarlan, who will lead on to batter the Norfolk club, although a young player, is considered a great hustler, and he has created the impression that he will be strictly in it when the season draws to a close in September.

The cranks in Roanoke are all jubilant, and are claiming everything for their club. They say they have the greatest everygation of ball-players ever gotten

and are claiming everything for their club. They say they have the greatest exgregation of ball-players ever gotten together, and have already (so 'its said) dug a hole for the pennant-pole.

It would be hard to describe the enthusiasm that exists in Lynchburg. The rooters there are all rampant, and they don't believe there is another club one earth that can touch the one Smith has gotten together for them. They declare that the team has already a lead-pipe cinch on the pennant, and that all that is necessary for them to land it is for the umpire to call "Play ball," and give them a fair shake.

Petersburg has unquestionably gotten together a much stronger organization than it had last year, and the Farmers will be closely up in the front when the finish is reached. This ought to be great news to the Richmond rooters. Certainly, there is not one in Richmond who does not wish to see a repetition of the race of 1894. With Richmond and Petersburg neck and neck and fighting for a place at this gip, what excitement will characterize une league, and how the rooters will tremble and quake with excitement when the two clubs come together. The old-time excursions "for rooters" exclusively will be run once more, and crowds will fack both ways between the two cities.

BLUEBIRDS ALL RIGHT.

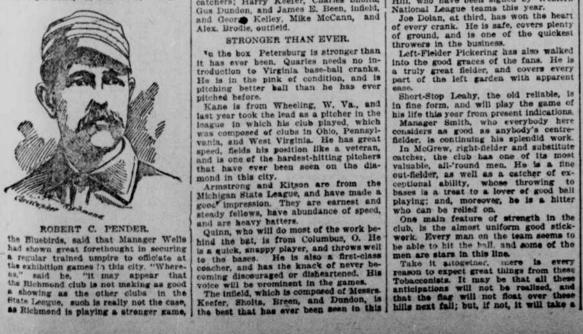
While all the other club have been siming new material, and fixing up gaps

While all the other clubs have been signing new material, and fixing up gaps and weak places in their fences, the man-agement of the Richmond club has been idle, and the Bluebirds of tonot been lide, and the Educations of to-day stand out pre-eminently fitted to do battle for the pennant of 1896. An importial comparison of this year's team with that of last year is certainly

encouraging. At the beginning of 1896 the Bluebirds were the worst-rattled set ball-players who ever donned uniforms, and a large majority of the pa-trans of the game were dissatisfied, and were creaking about the direful results of keeping such a lot of bum players. The same players, or many of them, re-mained however, and, somehow or other, the troubles all rolled away; and all was sunshine; and those same "bum players" developed into pennant-winners, and were lauded to the skies. Every rooter and base-ball enthusiast

herry rooter and base-ball enthusasses in Richmend knows the history of last season too well to need comment thereon, and everybody concedes now that the Richmond club is stronger now, both in fielding and batting, than it was last year at this time. Manager Wells has a staff of catchers of which he may just-ly feel proud; and his pitchers, as far as can be judged, are all that could be saked. They have not yet had time to harden up, and the weather has been entirely too cold to permit of their using their arms with any degree of freedom. and it would be an injustice to them to pass judgment upon them yet. Wells feels quite confident that they will all sive good accounts of themselves, and he is certainly entitled to a full share of the confidence of the rooters

NATIONAL LEAGUE OPINION. The National League teams, who have been through here, together with the newspaper-men, who have been travelling with them, all agree that the Richmond fram is the strongest fielding team in the Virginia League, and many of them say it is the fasiest team in the South. Manager Selee, of Boston, speaking of



and is not being assisted by partial um-

FIGHT FOR THE FLAG.

Battle for the State League Pennant to piring."

Manager Hanlon, of Baltimere, was also quite enthusiastic over the Bluebirds, and said he considered Tannehill and Gilpatrick the fastest youngsters he



GEORGE GILPATRICK.

had ever seen. The opinions of such men as Hanlon and Selse are worthy of consideration, as they know base-ball thoroughly, and know good players when they see them.

A PEEP AT THE MEN.

Let's take a look at the Richmond club as it is to-day, and see what the pros-pects of winning the pennant really are. Start behind the bat, with Boland. He is rapidly getting into shape; has a good arm; throws accurately, and seems to know his business. He wields the bat with great accuracy, and runs the bases exceedingly clevely. exceedingly cleverly.

Wilson's work is very encouraging. He has one of the best arms ever seen in a minor league catcher, and his throwing to second bag is simply grand.

has one of the best arms ever seen in a minor league catcher, and his throwing to second bag is simply grand. He wields the stick, too, with a refreshing brilliancy, and he keeps his wits about him all the time. He is certainly a stayer. Meyers is a youngster as yet, but he is doing good work. He has the making of a good ball-player in him, and, with a little more confidence in himself, will make a first-class catcher.

In Richmond's pitching department, Tannehill is, of course, the star, but he is not the only one. There are others. Glipatrick knows how to twirl a little bit, and if he don't make a record as a surprise to the batsmen who confront him this season, it will be a great surprise to many who have seen him toss the sphere. Dilion is another clever twirler, and he will, no doubt, prove a stayer, and Ames is too well known to admit of any question being raised as to his staying ability. His speed is worth keeping him for, if he used no art in his twirling. Taken as a whole, Richmond has a quartette of pitchers on whom Jake can rely at all times.

THE INFIELD.

The infield appears to be as quick as need be, though at times the work is rather sluggish, though, of course, this will be remedied with warm weather. Jake's work on first bag is all that could be desired. He can better coach the team from that position than he can from the bench, and he has apparently gotten his eye on the ball again, and hits it out nicely.

Sweeney, on second, does not suit some of the cranks, and he will have to do better work than he has done at times if he wants to stay on the team, but he has shown that he has the stuff in him, and that he knows how to play ball. With a little encouragement he will develop into a first-class second baseman.

Nobody could fill the short had to suit the cranks, except Harry Berte, and he looks after his territory to the queen's territory to the queen's territory to the queen's territory.

PETERSBURG IS STRONG,

And Will Make a Good Showing This Seoson.

PETERSBURG, VA., April 10.-(Special.) That Petersburg has a ball team that will make a good showing in the coming contest for the championship of the Virginia State League is conceded by all the rooters and fans who have watched their



C. W. BOYER, MANAGER.

preliminary practice. The work of the team, as a whole, has satisfied the most critical, and the mass of the cranks who have on each evening visited the park and watched the players as they batted, fielded, and ran bases, have been loud in their praises.

The team will be composed of thirteen players—william Quarles, Thomas Kane.

The team will be composed or thirteen appears—William Quarles, Thomas Kane, William Armstrong, and Frank Kitson, pitchers; Ro. Quinn and James Powers, catchers; Harry Keefer, Charles Sholta, Gus Dunden, and James E. Been, infield, and Georg Kelley, Mike McCann, and Alex. Brodle, outfield.

STRONGER THAN EVER.

vu the box Petersburg is stronger than it has ever been. Quarles needs no in-troduction to Virginia base-ball cranks. He is in the pink of condition, and is pitching better ball than he has ever

George Kelley, of last year's Norfolk team, will play left. As this is Kelley's third year in the Virginia State League, he will be remembered by all the lovers of the game.

he will be remembered by all the lovers of the game.

Mike McCann, who will play centre-field, is a brilliant fielder and good hitter. This is his first year as a professional, and he is sure to make a success.

Alex. Brodie will play in right-field, and be general utility hand. Brodie is now playing the game of his life. His fielding is all that his friends could expect, while his batting far exceeds their most sanguine expectations.

James Powers, the substitute catcher, has been unwell ever since his arrival in the city, suffering from cold, which has affected his eyes. He is under treatment at present, but expects to be all right before the league games open. He comes from Canada, and is highly spoken of by the papers.

LYNCHBURG SATISFIED.

Her Players are Young, Enthusiastic, and Ambitious.

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 11.-(Special.)-From what the Lynchburg fans have seen of their new ball team they feel well satisfied that the Tobacconists will take their place with the best of the league this season. The players, while they have all had experience in professional ball playing of from two to six seasons, are young, enthusiastic, and ambitious. They have records which give assurance of their capabilities, and every man of them seems to be animated with a desire to do his utmost for the success of the club; and they all realize that there is more glory in playing in pennant-winning than in "tail-ender"

pennant-winning than in "tail-ender" company.

It may be set down pretty confident; that Lynchburg is strong at every point in the field. The great subject of interest is the pitching department, not only because it is the most important, but because it is that of which the spectators have so far had least opportunity of forming an estimate. This is because Manager Smith has very properly retained the pitchers from overexertion during the short season of practice, But



JAMES LITTLE, CAPTAIN. there is little doubt that the club will have the strongest staff of pitchers it

ever started out with.

W. T. McFarland, of last year's Texas w. T. McFarland, of last year's Texas league, gives every promise of being a prize. He is of heavy build, weighing 183 pounds, looks like a winner, has speed, curves, and good control, besides being apparently cool at all times. His batting record is 385. Roy Evans, from the West, is another one who looks like a hard man to beat, and who has a splendid record. For Emporia, Kan, last year he won seventeen out of nineteen games pitched. His batting average was 387.

was 387.

C. H. Boylan is a twirler whose friends predict for him a National League berth ere long. He pitched against Cleveland in a game last year, allowing only nine hits and losing by the score of 4 to 2. He was with Evansville, Ind., in 1895, and had a batting average of 385.

Bruner, from Topeka, is a left-hander, with speed a plenty, who is able to put the ball over the plate and to fool the batsman. He ought to prove a valuable man.

A REMARKABLE RECORD. A REMARKABLE RECORD.

Guy Wilson is a big fellow, who for the past two years has been a member of pennant-winning State league teams in the West-Nebraska and Kansas. He is said to have the remarkable record of winning last season thirty-nine out of forty-two games pitched, and playing some in the field besides.

some in the field besides.

Stultz is a gritty young Kentuckian, for whom a fine future is predicted. He can already do splendid work. He pitched a game for Boston against Louisville (National League) in 1894, and won by the score of 4 to 2.

Penn Merchant comes with an excellent record, and shows great cleverness in the box. Most of these pitchers are also good, safe hitters.

IN GOOD, FORM.

IN GOOD FORM.

Jimmy Little, of the Roanokes last season, is the captain of the team, and will play first base. Everybody knows him. Suffice it to say that, after a week's practice, he is beginning to show up in the same good form as when he covered first bag for the Roanoke team, when, towards the last of last season, that was one of the best.

Catcher Schabel ("Deadbird") is in better spirits and better condition than ever. Frank Fear, the other regular catcher, is a much smaller man than Schabel, but is strong behind the bat and is a beautiful thrower; batting record for last season, 380.

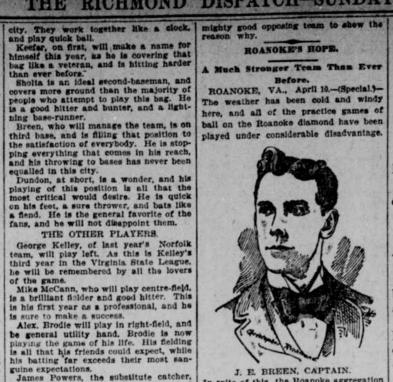
season, 389.

D. L. McGann plays second like a veteran, and has an astonishing batting record in the Blue Grass league. In five games against Knoxville last season, he made twenty-seven hits off Davis and Hill, who have been signed by Western National League teams this year.

Joe Dolan, at third, has won the heart of every crank. He is safe, covers plenty of ground, and is one of the quickest throwers in the business.

Left-Fielder Pickering has also walked into the good graces of the fans. He is a truly great fielder, and covers every part of the left garden with apparent ease.

Short-Stop Leahy, the old reliable, is



J. E. BREEN, CAPTAIN.

In spite of this, the Roanoke aggregation has made a very favorable impression on the local cranks. There is no doubt that Roanoke will be in better condition to play ball when the State League season opens than she has ever been since the organization of the league.

C. W. Boyer, who is the only non-playing manager in Virginia, has had considerable experience with base-ball, and he enjoys the reputation of being a good judge of a player. He has been unusually fortunate in bringing out new menhaving discovered several of the best players in the minor leagues. He is a strict disciplinarian, and trains the menfor team-work—a thing that the Roanokes have always lacked.

James Sullivan, who covers first base, has been temporarily appointed captain, and he will be retained in this position if his work continues to give satisfaction. Sullivan is a Californian, and has been playing ball since 1851. In 1854 and 1855 he was with Lincoln, Neb., in the Western Association, Lincoln winning the pennant each year. Sullivan was the first-baseman, with an average of .998.

Malcolm C. Whitehill, who has been signed to play second base, has not arrived, and Owen H. Shechan, who was signed as a change catcher, has been playing that position. Whitehill closed last season with Detroit, and is said to be a fine ball-player.

James Cockman, the third-baseman, is a fast fielder, and a heavy hitter. He is a Canadian, and was considered one of the best players in the Dominion. His

a fast fielder, and a neavy man a Canadian, and was considered one of the best players in the Dominion. His hand was injured a few days ago, and he will be in shape for the opening of The

george Wrigley, the shortstop, was in the Cumberland Valley League last season, where he made a fine record. He is a native of Philadelphia.

The out-field will be particularly strong when all the men are in their positions. Boss Grove, who comes from Pittsburg, covers the left garden in fine style, and he is a hard hitter.

WILL BE FOUND THERE.

WILL BE FOUND THERE.

WILL BE FOUND THERE.

Harry P. Tate, of Everett, Pa., was signed for the centre field, and he will be found there when the team settles down for the pennant-race. He is a fast fielder, and a safe man at the bat. He has been playing on third during the disability of Cockman.

C. B. Pyle, now a student of Delaware College, has been signed for the right field.

Manager Boyer has quite a string of Manager Boyer has quite a string or pitchers, and the cranks are now hopeful that another of the weak places has been greatly strengthened. McFall comes from Bolivar, N. Y., and he has made a very good record in the Eastern League, with the Buffalo team. Jerry Eddinger comes from Missouri, and he has playing hall for several years. has been playing ball for several years. John W. Kimball was considered the best pitcher in the South Jersey League Charles S. Pittenger made last season. Charles S. Pittenger made a great record as a pitcher in Cumber-land Valley League last season. John M. Finney comes from Lucasville, O., and he has been a successful ball-player

EXPECTED TO BE A STAR. EXPECTED TO BE A STAR.

Skinny McCann is the only man of last season's team. Thomas Lipp was the crack pitcher in the Cumberland Valley League last year, and Manager Boyer expects him to be one of the stars of the Virginia League this season. "Dusty" Coon and Chesbro are two more strong attohers that have been secured.

pitchers that have been secured.

Thus, it will be seen there is quite a quantity of material from which to select a staff of hitters. Coon's work against Brooklyn was very good, and if he holds out like he has started he will be one of the crack twirlers. Kimble has a great record, and McFall and Pittenger are showing up very well. Manager Boyer is confident that the pitching department of his team will be stronger than Roanoke has ever been before. pitchers that have been secured.

before.

L. D. Williams, of Anderson, Ind., has been signed as the regular catcher, and he plays his position well.

To a Friend. (Written for the Dispatch.)

(Written for the Dispatch.)
Once in a 'cycle of unending time,
'Mid varied scenes, and southern clime.
We met, and, passing, hailed a friend;
In parting, does it end?
Or, shall we some day, somewhere,
In other climes, 'mid scenes more fair
The salutation sound again? The future's mystic veil we cannot raise,

The future's mystic veil we cannot raise.
Too deeply hidden from our ken are
nature's ways;
Yet we may find that name a rod,
Some day, beyond the sod,
On which our fainting souls may rest,
As wearily up the hills we press
Through faith to God.
Richmond, Va.
T. L. COX.

True to His Vow. (Yonkers Statesman.)

(Yonkers Statesman.)

She: Come, dear; here are some nice, fresh biscuits I cooked myself. Put on your slippers and come to the table.

He: Excuse me, dear; I den't think I'll put on my slippers. I've always made the boast that I'd die with my boots on!

What Shall I Do?

is the earnest, almost agonizing cry of weak, tired, nervous women, and crowded verworked, struggling men. Slight difdeulties, ordinary cares, household work or daily labor, magnify themselves into eemingly impassable mountains.

This is simply because the nerves are weak, the bodily organs debilitated, and they do not

Take

proper nourishment. Feed the nerves, rgans and tissues on rich red blood, and how soon the glow of health comes to the pale cheeks, firmness to the unsteady hand, and strength to the faltering limb.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

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Notwithstanding the cool weather we are selling REFRIGERATORS. We handle the

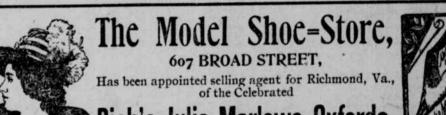
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We Have But One Price to All, CASH OR CREDIT.

Select what you want, get everything you need, select it as carefully as though you were paying spot cash, it won't take a minute to arrange the payments (weekly or mouthly, as it best suits you), and they'll be so small, and so far apart that you'll not miss the money. Yours for Home Comforts,

ROTHERT & FOURTH AND BROAD STREETS.



Rich's Julia Marlowe Oxfords, the most Perfect-Fitting Ladies' Low-Cut Shoe ever made.

Read what the famous actress says of them: "The Shoes arrived and are perfect in fit and appearance. I anticipate much comfort and pleasure in wearing them, and they fuculy yours. appreciate the com-Cali Mailor Teh pliment you have

It fits like a glove. It has no laces to untie. It never pinches the foot. It is easy to put on or off. It fits high or low instep. It has no eyelets to pull out. It conforms to the action of the

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Black Figured Mohair at 15c, a yard.

23-inch Ail-Wool Black Serge, 25c.

Black Brilliantine, 25, 20, 25, and 50c,

Black Wool Figures, 60c, a yard.

Black Wool Figures, 60c, a yard.

Finer Black Goods here, too.

Wash Silks at 25, 30, 23, 25, and 59c.
Fancy Shirt-Waist Silks, 75 and 9sc.
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Ladies' Black Jersey Vests, 121/c. each.

BLACK SILK SHIRT-WAISTS. Newest styles just received \$3.88. \$4. PERCALE SHIRT-WAISTS. A large assortment of entirely new pat-terns, made in latest styles. Prices, 50c.

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Shirt-Waist, 75c. and up.

Shirt-Waist Sets, 10 and 25c.
Sleeve Buttons, newest designs; Fancy Hat-Pins, Sliver and Enamel Earrings, Cuff-Pins, Breast-Pins, Stick-Pins, Black and Shell Side-Combs, and Hair-Pins.

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Fast sellers here, because the goods are

Sc. A PAIR

Fast sellers here, because the goods are well-selected and prices low.

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CORSETS.

Good-Luck Corsets, 39c.
Vigilant, P. C. C., and other good Corsets, in Gray or White, at 48c. a pair.
The celebrated W. B., R. & G., C. B.,
and Warner's Corsets. Ferris, and Warner's Corsets FAN SCREENS. Fan Screens, 10c., well worth 25c. Fan Screens, 25c., well worth 40c. Ladies' Jersey Vests, 5c. each.

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Blouse Flannel Suits, \$1.
All suits made in best manner and of good material.

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just double.

5c. A BALL
for all colors Crochet Knitting Slik or
O. N. T. Knitting-Cotton.
5c. A PAIR
for the Best Black Hose yet at that price. 5c. A PAIR

for Children's Black-Cotton Hose.

100. A PAIR

for a Good Black-Cotton Hose.

12½ A PAIR

buys the Best Black-Cotton Hose, for children, beats any you can find elsewhere.

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Warner's Corsets 4,000,000 living witnesses

to their superior

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-Comfort
-General Excellence

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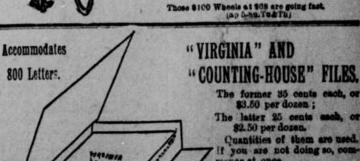
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